



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
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25 JUL 2011

ARNG-CSO-CH

MEMORANDUM FOR Joint Force Headquarters State Chaplains and State Full-Time Support Chaplains

SUBJECT: Role of Army National Guard (ARNG) Chaplains in Resilience & Suicide Prevention (R3SP), (ARNG-HRH Policy Memorandum #11-043)

1. References.

- a. Army Regulation 165-1, Army Chaplains Course Activities, 3 December 2009.
- b. Army Regulation 600-63, Army Health Promotion, 7 September 2010.
- c. Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-24, Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention, 7 September 2010.
- d. Army National Guard Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Campaign Plan, 23 November 2010.

2. Commanders are not to assign Chaplains as Suicide Prevention Program Managers (SPPM) or as Joint Forces Headquarters Resilience Coordinators in either a Title 10 or a Title 32 status.

- a. AR 165-1 restricts Chaplains from managing non-Chaplain programs. The ARNG Suicide Prevention Program is a G1 program, and does not fall into the Chaplain's lane.
- b. The SPPM position is not a clinical or Soldier care position; it is an administrative position. It is a poor use of a Chaplain's limited time to pull them from caring for Soldiers to administer a non-Chaplain program. Non-Chaplain entities hold the responsibility by regulation.
- c. Assigning Chaplains in these roles creates a misperception that these programs are Chaplain programs and are strictly faith based. This misperception limits Soldiers and leaders from fully understanding the broad spectrum of support and resources available to them, both through their unit ministry teams and the many other support programs the ARNG has to offer.

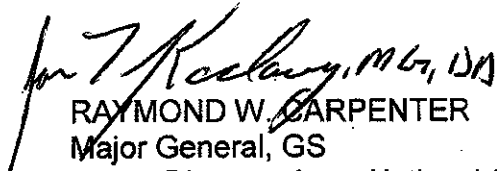
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d. Chaplains retain key roles as gatekeepers and trainers, per AR 600-63, para 4-4. Restricting the Chaplains from functioning as SPPMs does not detract from, but rather frees them to give precedence to these roles.

3. The ARNG no longer views suicide prevention as a separate entity, but rather suicide prevention flows from all that we do to care for Soldiers and Families, build resilience, train units, and honor the living and the dead. We all have a vital role to play in accomplishing these mission essential tasks, but Chaplains hold a unique role that can be accomplished only by ordained ministers who have been endorsed to serve in the military and represent their denomination. The SPPMs can be filled by any number of other qualified personnel in the system. Because they are such a limited and unique resource, it is important to keep our Chaplain Corps focused on duties that only they can perform and leave the administrative duties of managing programs to others.

4. The point of contact is CH (LTC) Ron Martin-Minnich, Family and Soldier Ministry Chaplain, at DSN 329-7826, 703-601-7826, or ron.martinminnich@us.army.mil.


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